

# NEW-YORK TRIBUNE.

THE NEW YORK DAILY TRIBUNE IS PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING (SUNDAYS EXCEPTED)

AT THE Tribune BUILDINGS, corner of Spruce and Nassau Streets, opposite the City Hall; and to City Subscribers for 12 1/2 Cents per week, or, when they prefer, they can pay in advance at 12 1/2 Cents for six months or a year. Subscriptions for one month \$1.00, for six months \$5.00, for one year \$15.00. Three months in advance required for payment of subscriptions. Subscriptions for one year will be taken at a lower rate than those of the Tribune, are not allowed. All differences in the paper appear both in the Morning and Evening Editions.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE \$1.00 is published every Wednesday and Saturday morning. Price 50 cents per issue. Two copies for 60.

NEW-YORK WEEKLY TRIBUNE VERY LARGE PAPER FOR THE COUNTRY, is published every Saturday. Price 50 cents per issue, or 50 cents per month. The copy for \$4.00, and the paper is now continued beyond the time for which it is paid.

GREELEY & McELRATH, Publishers.

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## THE GREAT OYSTER WAR.

The quiet and remote district of Accomac, never visited by newspapers and rarely by schools, has lately been the seat of a fierce intestine war—occasioned by Oysters. At the last accounts, the tumult had not subsided, although the whole influence of the State Government had been arrayed on the side of the invaded inhabitants and the outraged shellfish. On looking through the "History of the United States for 1849" by Bann Knott Esq., we find the whole affair related with the conciseness and grace of that elegant historian, in the following words:

"The general gloom spread over the country by the return of Park, the Eleventh, from the Presidential tour, was much increased at this time, by news of a serious engagement on the Chesapeake border. The government of Philadelphia had invaded those beds, the right and title of which was held by the people of Accomac."

On the 1st of March, the oysters were captured,

the use of which had been declared unlawful by the State, the Philadelphians laid waste the nobles of Pocomoke Sound. Exasperated by this invasion, the people of the province mustered their forces in battle array, embarked on board of five small vessels, and sent into the sound, two revenue-packets. Their armament consisted of one-pounder, two revenue-packets and a smaller number of boat-pieces. The conflict was long and bloody. The Philadelphian fleet of twenty sail advanced in a shower of balls and pieces of iron, which did immense harm among the salves and oysters. As the tide turned, the rebels prepared for the assault. For an instant, the fate of the day was doubtful, but the Philadelphian boats wavered and finally fled into an arm of the Sound, where they surrendered. The victorious army of Accomac encamped with their prisoners that night on the battle-ground. Drummond, of Philadelphia, was severely wounded in the state of exhaustion of the war, and it was some time before the shock thus given to business and confidence, passed away."

On reading the above passage, we were struck with the remarkable aptitude of the events for the purposes of song and fiction. The particulars are romantic enough to satisfy the most sentimental, while the feelings of none are afflicted by the recital of slaughter and death—for happily no serious injury was sustained by any one. These reflections led us to make the following attempt at preserving the most picturesque portions of the history in a brief popular epic, which, like the traditions on which Shakespeare constructed his transcendent dramas, may serve in future ages as the basis of some immortal work.

## THE OYSTER WAR OF ACCOMAC.

### AN EPIC POEM.

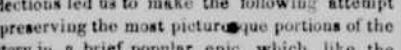
In Hemispheres and Diamonds.

CANTO I.

Now on a Saturday morning old Phobus popped up over Accomac.

Round and prodigiously red ; for rising was quite an exertion.

(Folks on the Chesapeake don't often hurry to finish their snoozes.)



Up over Accomac rose he, and Pocomoke, famed for its oysters.

Loud crowed the roosters, flapping their wings on the tops of the shanties.

Heard them; the dogs, and the porkers anon, and likewise lastly the darkies.

Louder the noise grew, till all of them kicked up such terrible rumpus.

This Tuscan movement excites least sympathy because it has an air of ingratitude and incapacity.

The great Duke Leopold, a weak but worthy man, was followed by the Italian spirit and accepting Charles Albert in his success as King, rejected him at the conclusion of the armistice, and has remained ever since isolated and impregnable in the sea.

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